

State Safety Council Meeting
October 10, 2002

Members Present: Jim Sledge, Bob Ponder, Steve Williams, Doug VanDevander, Jim Edwards, Dale Brown, Ken Frazier, Andy Taylor and Richard Tice

Members Absent: Danny Bryant, Greg Bourque, Robert Gill and Greg Chatham

Guest: Bill Kitchings – Sitting in for Robert Gill
Ed Brown – Sitting in for Greg Chatham

The State Safety Council meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. on October 11, 2002, at Roosevelt State Park.

Minutes of the April 2002, meeting were handed out and read. No corrections were made.

Old Business: Items under old business from previous meeting were discussed as follows:

New Members - Andy Taylor welcomed new members and handed out a copy of the by-laws and duties of Safety Council Personnel.

GPS – Discussed expense of GPS units as a safety issue. Same results could be achieved if employees will notify Dispatch of their whereabouts. This should be done but more specifically, must be done when working alone. The Safety Council strongly recommended encouraging personnel when they get out of their vehicle or out of their normal work area to notify Dispatch of their location.

Gloves – Gloves are not on state contract therefore, they can be obtained at Forestry Suppliers and some have been bought at Wal-Mart.

Met Amphetamine's Labs – Each District should locate local sources for having a met amphetamine lab class for employees. Sources for this training are Sheriff's Departments, ATF, EMA and State Fire Marshall's Office.

ATV's - Showed an example of ATV tie downs that South Central District uses. Brochures on Louisiana Guard Day had been sent to Districts earlier. Hasty Hitch by B&M Products is the type used by South Central District.

Training Schedule – Andy has training schedule posted on web site. Plans are being made for a two-week training in May 2003.

New Employees – Cautioned that new employees should be sent out with qualified person to do work. Even experienced people sometimes don't consider that everyone knows as much as they do.

Winches – Winch training is on the "Dozer Boss" tape. Cable inspection should be done after each pull with cable being pulled off completely.

New Business:

Bill Kitchings – Had complaints that new uniforms are not comfortable to work in. Most complaints were to change brand of jeans. Discussed nomex use and not wearing it as a day-to-day uniform but should be carried separately. **NO PATCHES ARE TO BE PUT ON NOMEX CLOTHING.** Talked about shelters hanging up and the potential for problems especially on chopped job sites. Employee carrying torch fell and a stick went between belt and could not get untangled as fire from torch lit litter in the area. Reviewed how to get belt off in case of incident. Discussed headsets and breathing apparatus. Zanafel works on poison ivy and sumac also crushed elderberry leaves. Best to wash area after exposure.

Jim Edwards – Discussed safety awards and unpreventable accidents that are not employee's fault. Safety officer along with District Office person can make decision regarding safety award.

Jim Sledge – Need to stress hydration. We have had several incidents with heat exhaustion this year.

Richard Tice - There is a need for nomex. Some is wearing out. We are now using prison crew that needs to be outfitted with safety equipment.

Ed Brown – Discussed South Central District's safety council meeting and handed out copy of their minutes.

Doug VanDevander – Problem with lights on 400G tractors, hard to see at night. Discussed need for using safety gas cans. Talked of sources for reflective tape for transports.

Dale Brown – Dust masks and dry bandanas work best in smoke. Discussed tools being used to drive pins out of tracks on dozers.

Andy Taylor – Would like a list of safety devices used on tractors now and what we might need to add in the future. Discussed any changes that needed to be made in safety manual before reprinting. Let Andy know of changes as soon as possible.

Management Services Inc. is now handling tort claims.

Discussed lightening article. SIGG bottle report and accident summary.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned until January 9, 2003, 10:30 a.m., Roosevelt State Park.